WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data processing apparatus for processing audio visual data made up of video or audio data, said data processing apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving an edit command specifying how to edit said audio visual data;

editing means for editing said audio visual data in accordance with said edit command;

determining means for determining whether said edit command specifies copying of said audio visual data; and

controlling means which, if said edit command is determined to specify the copying of said audio visual data, then transfers said audio visual data from a copy source formed by one of at least one recording/reproducing means for recording or reproducing said audio visual data, to a copy destination formed by either the same or another recording/reproducing means, without synchronizing the two recording/reproducing means in operation; and if said edit command is determined to specify an editing action other than the copying of said audio visual data, then transfers the unedited audio visual data reproduced from one of said at least one recording/reproducing means to said editing means for the specified editing action, and transfers the edited audio

visual data coming from said editing means to either the same or another recording/reproducing means for storage therein, while synchronizing said editing means and the two recording/reproducing means in operation.

2. A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said receiving means receives edit command data prepared electronically in advance so as to constitute said edit command.

3. A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one recording/reproducing means is incorporated in the apparatus.

4. A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one recording/reproducing means is capable of recording or reproducing said audio visual data to or from a randomly accessible storage medium.

5. A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said edit command is recorded on a storage medium and reproduced therefrom by said at least one recording/reproducing means; and

wherein said receiving means receives said edit command reproduced from said storage medium.

6. A data processing method for processing audio visual data made up of video or audio data, said data processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving an edit command specifying how to edit said audio visual data;

editing said audio visual data in accordance with said edit command using editing means;

determining whether said edit command specifies copying of said audio visual data;

if said edit command is determined to specify the copying of said audio visual data, then transferring said audio visual data from a copy source formed by one of at least one recording/reproducing means for recording or reproducing said audio visual data, to a copy destination formed by either the same or another recording/reproducing means, without synchronizing the two recording/reproducing means in operation; and

if said edit command is determined to specify an editing action other than the copying of said audio visual data, then transferring the unedited audio visual data reproduced from one of said at least one recording/reproducing means to said editing means for the specified editing action, and transferring the edited audio visual data coming from said editing means to either the same or another recording/reproducing means for storage therein, while synchronizing said editing means and the two recording/reproducing means in

operation.

7. A program for causing a computer to execute a data processing method for processing audio visual data made up of video or audio data, said data processing method comprising the steps of:

editing said audio visual data in accordance with an edit command specifying how to edit said audio visual data, using editing means;

determining whether said edit command specifies copying of said audio visual data;

if said edit command is determined to specify the copying of said audio visual data, then transferring said audio visual data from a copy source formed by one of at least one recording/reproducing means for recording or reproducing said audio visual data, to a copy destination formed by either the same or another recording/reproducing means, without synchronizing the two recording/reproducing means in operation; and

if said edit command is determined to specify an editing action other than the copying of said audio visual data, then transferring the unedited audio visual data reproduced from one of said at least one recording/reproducing means to said editing means for the specified editing action, and transferring the edited

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audio visual data coming from said editing means to either the same or another recording/reproducing means for storage therein, while synchronizing said editing means and the two recording/reproducing means in operation.